

MICHAEL SHUMAN TO PRESENT KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT 2013 BUSINESS CONFERENCE

Community-Based Economic Development Expert to Headline Montana SBDC Invest in Success Conference

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The Montana Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network is holding their fourth annual SBDC Invest in Success Conference on April 24 – 25, 2013 at Montana Tech in Butte, MT. This conference has been specifically designed to provide small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs the opportunity to obtain knowledge and enhance their financial, managerial and technical skills as well as connect with resource providers and network with others in the small business community.



The Montana SBDC is pleased to announce that Michael Shuman, Director of Research at Cutting Edge Capital and Director of Economic Development at the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) will be presenting the keynote address at the conference. Michael is a current Fellow at the Post Carbon Institute and holds an AB with Distinction in Economics and International Relations from Stanford University and a JD from Stanford Law School. He has led community-based economic development efforts across the country and has authored and edited seven books, including The Small-Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses are Beating the Global Competition, Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in the Global age, and most recently, Local Dollars, Local Sense: How to Shift Your Money from Wall Street to Main Street and Achieve Real Prosperity.

In recent years, Michael has led community-based economic development efforts in New York, Maine, Maryland and Colorado, and served as a senior editor for the recently published Encyclopedia of Community. He has given an average of more than one invited talk per week for over 25 years throughout the United States and the world.

The following is an excerpt from a report published by Michael in 2010 as part of the Post Carbon Reader Series titled *The Competitiveness of Local Living Economies*:

“Economic localization offers the key to solving a growing number of global problems, including peak oil, climate disruption, and financial meltdowns. Yet the perception remains that this solution is very costly, because local goods and services supposedly are more expensive than their global alternatives. American consumers are convinced that “big-box” stores and bigger businesses mean lower prices – “always,” in the Wal-Mart vernacular. And not a few localization activists concur, arguing that consumers should nevertheless be prepared to pay more to responsibly avert the calamities of a post-carbon dependent world. In fact, local goods and services are already competing remarkably well in the marketplace – and they are likely to do better in the near future.”

Many of Montana’s small business communities are highly focused on community-based economic development, and the Montana SBDC Network feels that Michael Shuman’s message will resonate with small business owners throughout the state.

To register for the conference, visit www.regonline.com/investinsuccess or contact Julie Jaksha with the SBDC at Headwaters RC&D in Butte at (406) 533-6780. Conference updates can also be found at www.facebook.com/montanasbdc.

The Montana SBDC program is funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. Reasonable accommodations will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance.